A

LETTER

FROM

Gen. MONCK

TO

King CHARLS

SON of the late

King CHARLS

OF

ENGLAND.

DECEASED.

Together with King *Charls* his Anſwer thereunto.

London, Printed 1660.

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JUNE 1, 1918

A Letter from General *Monck* To King *CHARLS*, &c.

May it please your Majesty,

SEeing it hath pleased God out of his gracious will and pleasure, to cause me to cast my Eye upon this Commonwealth of *England*, my native Country, (and your three Kingdomes;) and viewing there, to behold the sad and lamentable condition, that now, and for many years past, it hath been intangled in; which as reason and conscience together perswades me, is occasioned chiefly for want of its ancient and ever customed way of Government, (to wit) a King and Parliament, which hath been unsetled altogether amongst us, ever since the unhappy death of your Majesties late father our King; by reason whereof, our ancient and accustomed wholesome lawes both of Church and State, are most strangely torn and massacred; and all through the self-seeking ends of some certain persons, which at present I judge not fit herein to be communicated, who having gotten the power of the sword in their hands, thought for ever to rule and reign over their opposers; (I think in spight of God or man:) But of late, some of those (I hope, I may truely bless the name of the Lord for it,) who were the chief rulers of those unhappy differences between our King, and his three poor distracted Kingdomes, are taken out of this world; insomuch, that the Power of those remaining, is much weakned; But yet they will (I perceive) seek to tread in the self same steps of them that have gone before them, as seeking onely to set up their own interest, although to the utter ruine of the Nation. Studying how of littleness to become great, hating the name of a King, but would joyfully imbrace the power thereof, (yea, I may say, they seek far more Power, than ever our late King did take upon him,) and all is done under the zealous pretence of Saintship and religion; the form of manner whereof, is plainly manifested by their tolerating and setting up of strange Sects of religion, as *Anabaptists*, *Quakers*, and such like, seeking ut-

terly to destroy, and pull down, our ancient Orthodox Divnes, unless timely prevented. I question not but your Majesty is very well knowing of the Power, which for some few years past, I have had, in governing the *English* Army here in *Scotland*; which Power, when I had once obtained, I did resolve, as much as in me lay, to keep, until a fit time and opportunity should offer it self, that I might imploy it for the glory of God, and the good of your Majesty, whose faithful Subject I humbly acckowledge my self to be. Now so it is, may it please your Majesty, I plainly seeing, and with a sad heart beholding the threatning hand of the Lords severe Judgements stretched forth against these three Kingdomes, which forthwith must, and will inevitably fall heavy upon us, (for ought as can be imagined, to the utter ruine both of King and Subjects,) unless suddenly prevented by our humble submission to the Lord, and an unfeigned repentance of our former miscarriages. May it also please your Majesty to give me leave to acquaint you, that I humbly conceive, I had never a better opportunity of doing my Country service, (in freeing them from their *Egyptian* bondage, as I may term it,) and in restoring the Crown to the right owner thereof; which if possible to be done, shall be done with as much care, safety, and diligence, as God shall inable me, and that with as little wrong as may be either to King or Subjects; which work when it is perfected, I hope will tend to the firm setlement of our ancient Protestant religion: In tender consideration of all which premisses, I most humbly beg that high favour of your Majesty that you will be graciously pleased, to permit me to make these Proposals following. First, whether your Majesty will be pleased, to accept of the real indevours of me your unworthy Subject and Servant to be imployed in being a means in helping your Majesty to a quiet and safe possession of three Kingdomes; which have (with violence) been so long time withheld from you? If yea, Then, Will your Majesty be pleased, to consent to a Treaty to be had between your Majesty, and a free Parliament, which shall be lawfully elected and chosen by the Country, whose care I hope will be for the choosing of such honest, godly, and religious men, as had no hand in the death of our late King, or since his death have (by any unlawful means whatsoever,) enjoyed any of his Lands,

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Tenements, or Rents, or the Lands, Tenements, and Rents, of the late Deans and Chapters, or any of your late sequestred Subjects, or which since his death have appeared violent in their acting against Kingship, and consequently against your Majesty, our lawful King? Not in the least that I have any malice or evil will against such persons, but for that my conscience tells me, that so long as such interessed persons are suffered to sit in Parliament, there is little good to be expected, either for King or Kingdome; for it is a hard thing for men to act against their own selves, to the loss of their Lands and livings; which they suppose they have so honestly gained. If your Majesty will be pleased to consent to such a treaty, and that thereupon it may be agreed upon, that your Majesty shall be restored to your three Kingdomes; which I question not, but will be the event of such a treaty: Then I humbly beg, that your Maj. would be pleased, to think fit to declare what mercy and pity, you are pleased shall be shewn to all those that have been the chief of your enemies, (who's blood in severity of justice, might deservedly be spilt,) upon their humble submission to your Majesty, and their promise of future obedience; for I hope, you will judge, that the onely way to joyn the hearts of the People of your three Kingdomes, to pray for your happy success in all things; and not onely so, but it will undoubtedly encourage them all to venter their Lives against all your opposers, if any shall contest: And also that your Majesty would be pleased, to declare out of your gracious goodness, what satisfaction shall be made to the poor Common Souldiery throughout your three Kingdomes, who have been forced to take up Arms, although against your Majesty, for meer necessity to keep them and their Families from starving, who indeed are much behind in their pay; which will be utterly lost, and undone, unless your Majesty take compassion upon them; which if you are pleased so to do I question not, but you will find as much humility and submission from them, as can be expected; and for the future it will ingage them to be as ready to serve your Majesty, as they were to serve your enemies for the time past: And moreover, I conceive it will be a great incouragement to them, to joyn with me in this design. I shall trouble your Majesty with little more at present; But to let you know, that my hopes are that you would be pleased

sed, to have that confidence in me, as not to credit any rumours or reports, that may seemingly contradict, what I have herein proposed; for, as for that, I would have your Majesty to be confident, that I shall not value neither the ill will, or yet look upon the favour of any, who shall appear in opposition to a thing that I have so really purposed, so long as God and my Conscience perswades me, that in so doing I shall accomplish a good work both for his glory, and my Countries good: And yet I think fit to carry as fair a corespondency as I can, with those that have taken upon them the Authority in *England*: To that end, I have thoughts of going to *London* very suddenly, that I may see their actings, and order things there somewhat for my advantage; I humbly beg your Majesties speedy Answer touching these proposals: So with all submissiveness, I crave your Majesties favour, in giving me leave to subscribe my self

Edenborough *Your Majesties for ever faithful*
Decemb. 30. *and Loyal Subject*
1659. George Monck.

King *Charles* his *Answer thereunto.*

WORTHY FRIEND,

THis is to let you understand, that I have recieved yours of the Twentieth of *December*, the twenty fifth of the same Moneth. The Contents whereof, do cause me, to judge you deserving, of the Title that I have given you, and I hope, the further events of your intended proceedings, may ere long merit a greater; and for as much, as I concieve it necessary, to give you the speedy result of my mind in Answer thereunto, I think fit to let you know in the first place, that I freely pardon you for all offences or crimes, whatsoever committed (or which you know your self guilty of) against my late Dear Father, and my self; I beseech the Lord to forgive you likewise; I must confess, I am not ignorant of the power, that you for some years past, have had over the *English* Army in *Scotland*; And I do likewise blesse God, who hath now opened your Eyes, to behold the miseries of my three poor distressed Kingdomes; And also for that hee hath made

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you ſo far ſenſible of his heavy judgements (ready to be ſhowred down upon them, by reaſon of the grievous and lamentable outcrying ſins of the people) as to cauſe you, to make ſo fair and ſeaſonable a proffer of the tender of your ſervice, both for the glory of God, and the good of me and my people. The Lord open your heart, couragiouſly, to go on in the perfecting of ſo great a work, as you have intended to ſet on foot, you having now ſo fit an opportunity, And for the anſwering the propoſals therein contained, in order as they lye, I do declare that I ſhall with a willing and joyful heart, accept of your faithful and honeſt indevours to be imployed, for the glory of God, and the manifeſt good of Me and my Subjects; not ſo much for the profit or wordly advantage that I think to recieve thereby, but that which I ſhall chiefliest rejoyce in, is, only for the glory of God, and the good of my three Kingdomes. I mean in freeing them from their ſlavery, in preſerving them from any farther effuſion of blood, and for the ſetling amongſt them their ancient way of Church and State Government, for the advancement of the true Proteſtant Religion; and alſo for the quaſhing of all Hereſies, Hypocriſies, Sects and Schiſmes, that are lately crept into our Proteſtant Church; Whereby we are become a mere laughing ſtock, to all Nations; and as for my conſenting to a Treaty, to be had between Me and a Parliament, to be choſen by a free conſent of my people, I am ſure there is not a thing that I can imbrace with a greater joy, and eſpecially, if my Subjects make choyce, of perſons ſo qualified as you have mentioned in your Letter to me, then of neceſſity, there can nothing but good come of ſuch a Treaty. But if otherwiſe, it may be doubted, but however my truſt ſhall be in the Lord, And whereas it was your deſire, for me to declare what mercy and pity, I would ſhould be ſhown towards thoſe who are my manifeſt enemies. In caſe I ſhould come quietly to be reſtored to my three Kingdomes; I do therefore for the ſatisfaction both of You and my Subjects, declare the thoughts of my heart, touching my ſaid enemies in manner following. That as for all ſuch, who ſhall humbly ſubmit themſelves unto me, and expreſſing their Sorrow for all their former actings againſt Me and my late Father, and upon promiſe of their future obedience, I will freely pardon them of

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their lives; and as for their estates, those who have lawfully purchased any from any of my Subjects; I will that they enjoy such their estates according to their purchase, they only paying (for the space of five years) the moiety of the profits of such their estates towards satisfaction of the publick debts, that my poor Subjects may be somewhat eased of their Taxes, which have been so heavily imposed upon them for this many years. And as for such who have gotten or purchased by any means whatsoever any of my land (to wit) any of the Kings lands or livings, or the lands and livings of the Bishops, late Deans and Chapiters, or of any of my Subjects, sequestred or taken from them for their Delinquency (so accounted:) My will is, that such estates so gotten, shall be by them surrendred into the hands and possession of the right owners as formerly, being contented to rest quiet & satisfied with the gain and profit they have recieved thereby for the time past, and to lose the profit for the time to come, which my conscience tells me, is but plain reason; and as for those who shall persist and continue in their rebellion against me, I shall desire, that such course may be taken with them, as my Parliament and Councel shall think fit, and their estates to be disposed of towards payment of the Publick debts which shall be judged necessary, and fit to be discharged, which I shall refer to my Parliament and Councel; who I shall humbly desire, and I question not, but it will be their care in being sparing in spilling as little blood as may be. And as for the poor Common soldiers, they who will submit themselves to me, I freely pardon them; and my will is, that their Arrears shall be payed as speedily as conveniently may be, although it be for their Service in fighting against me, but I impute all to their necessity; What I have here above declared, I shall labour to make good, to the utmost of my power. I shall not, neither do I in the least, question your Reality, in the faithful performance of what you have declared. God prosper you in all your undertakings therein; and I shall own you in every thing that you shall act, for Gods glory, and the good of my people, which I desire may be done with as much expedition as may be. I render you very many thanks for your Love.

C. R.

FINIS.